ways have been carrying out observation and maintenance of several hundred bridges of the Railways;

(b) if so, whether regular inspection of these railway bridges was undertaken during 1987-1988; and

(c) whether any reports were presented to Railway Safety Organisation; if so, the action taken on these reports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Inspection and maintenance of bridges are done by the Civil Engineering Department of the Railways. All railway bridges are inspected every year, on a regular basis.

(c) No, Sir. Civil Engineering department takes appropriate action, as found necessary, based on its own inspections.

National Committee on Tourism

1986. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state what are the recommendations of the National Committee on tourism and which of the recommendations of the Committee are being accepted by Government to promote and reform Indian tourist sector?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): The National Committee on Tourism has made several recommendations which can be classified into the following 3 categories:

1. A package of incentives for motivating private sector investment in tourism related activities.

2. Re-organisation of the Department of Tourism, India Tourism Development Corporation and the training institutes under the Department of Tourism.

3. Strategy for rapid augmentation of air and ground transportation capacity.

The recommendations of the Committee are being examined by the Government.

Counting of previous service of Erstwhile Rivers Steam Navigation Company Limited

1987. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the services of employees of erstwhile Rivers Steam Navigation Company Limited with their present services in the CIWTC for retirement benefits etc.;

(b) whether Government propose to convene a meeting of all concerned to clinch the issues; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when such a meeting is likely to be held for final and early settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Rivers Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. declared closure on 3.5.67. Based on a Scheme of Arrangement approved by the Calcutta High Court, the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation had given fresh appointments to about 5,173 former employees of the R.S.N. Co. Ltd. Later, the Union of the employees have moved the High Court claiming continuity of service The matter is *sub judice*.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.